

TOPIC PACKS · Y2-Y5

Rocks & Fossils

Five days underfoot

Day 1 — Rock collection day

Day 2 — Three rock types



Day 3 — The rock cycle

Day 4 — Fossils and how they form

Day 5 — Famous fossils & discoveries

Rock types — quick comparison

Type	How it forms	Examples	Key features
Igneous	Cooled lava or magma	Granite, basalt, pumice	Crystalline; pumice floats!
Sedimentary	Compacted layers over millions of years	Sandstone, limestone, shale	Often layered; fossils often found



Type	How it forms	Examples	Key features
Metamorphic	Existing rock + heat + pressure	Slate, marble, schist	Often shiny or banded
Sandstone (sedimentary)	Compacted sand grains	—	Used in cathedrals, weathered easily
Limestone (sedimentary)	Compacted shells and skeletons	—	Often contains fossils; reacts to vinegar
Granite (igneous)	Slow-cooled magma underground	—	Used for kitchen counters
Marble (metamorphic)	Heated limestone	—	Used for statues, building stones

Rock and fossil facts to wow children with

Oldest rock on Earth

About 4 billion years old — found in Canada

Oldest fossils

Bacteria fossils about 3.5 billion years old

Largest dinosaur fossil

Patagotitan — about 37m long, 70 tonnes

Mary Anning's biggest find

First complete ichthyosaur skeleton, age 12, 1810

Why don't most things fossilise?

Bodies usually rot or get eaten. Fossilisation needs quick burial in low-oxygen mud

Does coal count as a fossil?

Yes — coal is fossilised plant matter from ~300 million years ago

Where do most British fossils come from?

Jurassic Coast (Dorset/Devon), Yorkshire, Lyme Regis. The UK has world-class fossil sites

